

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

This application is a continuation of:

Serial No. 09/711,034 filed November 13, 2000

Applicant(s): Stoltze et al.

Examiner (Anticipated): Yu, J.

Serial No.: Unassigned

Group Art Unit (Anticipated): 3764

Filed: Concurrently herewith

Docket: 760-46 CIP/PCT/USA/CON2

For: CATHETER WITH A STENT AND
METHOD FOR THE PRODUCTION
OF A CATHETER WITH STENT

Dated: December 12, 2001

Date December 12, 2001 Label No. ET190237147US
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M J Mallin M J Mallin
Name (Print) (Signature)

Box Patent Application
Commissioner of Patents
Washington, DC 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §1.53
ACCOMPANYING NEW APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

Sir:

The present submission is being made to accompany a continuation application filed concurrently herewith, claiming priority to co-pending application Serial No. 09/711,034 filed November 13, 2000. Prior to calculating the filing fee for this application, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Before the first line, please insert the following:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS:

--This application is a continuation of U.S. Serial No. 09/711,034, filed on November 13, 2000, which is a continuation of U.S. Serial No. 08/591,506, filed on August 19, 1996, now U.S. Patent No. 6,187,013, which is a §371 of PCT/IB95/00492, filed on June 6, 1995.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-24.

Please add the following new claims:

- 25. A method of manufacture of an endovascular support device comprising:
- providing a balloon catheter having a proximal portion, a distal portion and a balloon on the distal portion;
 - mounting at least one stent on said balloon of said balloon catheter;
 - placing said distal portion of said balloon catheter including said mounted stent within a holding device to prevent expansion of said mounted stent; and
 - heating said distal portion placed in said holding device to cause said balloon to expand around said stent.--

--26. A method of claim 25 wherein said heating step softens said balloon and further including the step of allowing said balloon to return to an unsoftened state so as to adhere said balloon to said stent.--

--27. A method of claim 26 wherein said allowing step includes cooling said balloon.--

--28. A method of claim 26 including the step of removing said holding device after unsoftening.--

--29. A method of claim 25 including the step of pressurizing said balloon catheter during said heating step.--

--30. A method of manufacture of stent support assembly comprising:
providing a balloon catheter having an inflatable balloon;
mounting at least one stent on said balloon of said balloon catheter;
placing said inflatable balloon including said stent within a softening device;
softening said balloon around said stent; and
unsoftening said balloon so that said balloon adheres to said stent.--

--31. A method of claim 30 including the step of pressurizing said balloon catheter during said heating step.--

--32. A method of claim 30 including the step of removing said balloon and said stent from said softening device.--

--33. A method of claim 30 wherein said softening device is a heating device.--

--34. A method of claim 33 wherein said softening step includes heating said balloon around said stent.--

--35. A method of claim 33 wherein said unsoftening step includes cooling said balloon.--

--36. A catheter system comprising:

a catheter having an inflatable portion; and

a stent positioned about said inflatable portion and releasably retained to said inflatable portion in depressions formed therein.--

--37. A catheter system of claim 36 wherein said stent is adhered to said inflatable portion in said depressions.--

--38. A catheter system of claim 37 further including a device configured to accommodate said inflatable portion and said stent, said device being removably positionable thereover during softening.--

--39. A catheter system of claim 38 wherein said device is a heating device.--

--40. A catheter system of claim 38 wherein said device is removable from said inflatable portion and said stent to allow unsoftening of said inflatable portion.--

--41. A method of forming a stent delivery device comprising the steps of:
providing a catheter having an inflatable portion;
placing a stent on the inflatable portion; and
releasably retaining said stent to said inflatable portion in depressions formed therein.--

--42. A method of claim 41 wherein said releasably retaining step includes:
placing said inflatable portion and said stent in a softening device.--

--43. A method of claim 42 wherein said softening device is a heating device.--

--44. A method of claim 42 further including the step of heating said inflatable portion and said stent in said heating device to adhere said stent in said depression.--

REMARKS

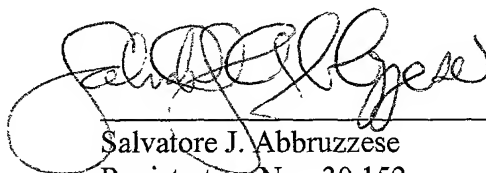
The present application is a continuation of U.S. Serial No. 09/711,034, filed on November 13, 2000, which is a continuation of U.S. Serial No. 08/591,506, filed on August 19, 1996, now U.S. Patent No. 6,187,013, which is a §371 of PCT/IB95/00492, filed on June 6, 1995.

The present Preliminary Amendment cancels all of the originally pending claims and substitutes therefore claims 25-44. Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

The application is now believed to be in condition for examination. Favorable action thereon is respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this amendment, the undersigned would be pleased to address them by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Salvatore J. Abbruzzese", is written over a horizontal line.

Salvatore J. Abbruzzese
Registration No.: 30,152
Attorney for Applicant(s)

HOFFMANN & BARON, LLP
6900 Jericho Turnpike
Syosset, New York 11791
(973) 331-1700